

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 170

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor Mac Wiseman on his long and illustrious career in the field of bluegrass music.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to the legendary bluegrass vocalist Mac Wiseman, The Voice with a Heart; and

WHEREAS, born May 23, 1925, in Crimora, Virginia, Malcolm B. "Mac" Wiseman graduated from New Hope, Virginia's high school in 1943, and then continued his studies at the Shenandoah Conservatory in Dayton, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, after working as a radio disc jockey at WSVA-AM in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Mac Wiseman began his musical career as an upright bass player for the band of country singer Molly O'Day; and

WHEREAS, a member of Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs's The Foggy Mountain Boys early in his career, Mr. Wiseman was also an original member of Bill Monroe's band, The Bluegrass Boys, and sang lead on the band's classic recording of "Can't You Hear Me Calling"; and

WHEREAS, a regular popular member of the influential radio show, *Louisiana Hayride*, Mr. Wiseman also starred on the *Old Dominion Barn Dance* on WRVA in Richmond, Virginia, during the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, a gifted vocalist who began his recording career in 1946, Mr. Wiseman now holds the remarkable distinction of being the artist with the longest continuous recording career among living American singers; and

WHEREAS, he launched his dynamic solo career in 1951 with "Tis Sweet to be Remembered," a song he later recorded with Merle Haggard, Vince Gill, and Alison Krauss; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he has released a plethora of classic songs, including "Shackles and Chains," "Jimmy Brown the Newsboy," "Love Letters in the Sand," "Going Like Wildfire," "I Saw Your Face in The Moon," "Waiting For The Boys," a Top-40 novelty tune, "If I Had Johnny's Cash and Charley's Pride," and his first national Top-10 hit, "The Ballad of Davy Crockett"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wiseman has also recorded with a variety of artists from within and outside of the bluegrass genre, including Lester Flatt, John Prine, Bootsie Collins, Charlie Daniels, Duane Eddy, and Woody Herman; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, he performed at the fabled Newport Folk Festival, and during the heyday of folk revivalism in the 1960s, he performed successful concerts at the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wiseman produced the album *Christmas Time's A Comin'*, which was one of the most popular Christmas releases of 1991 and 1992 with Southern retailers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to writing his life story, *All My Memories Fit to Print*, with Walt Trott, Mac Wiseman has recorded and co-written, with Peter Cooper and Thomm Jutz, his musical memoir, *I Sang the Song*, at age ninety-nine; and

WHEREAS, on this album, he sings songs that tell the incredible story of his rise from rural Virginia to the grand stage, with appearances by John Prine, Alison Krauss, Shawn Camp, Jim Lauderdale, Sierra Hull, and other luminaries; and

WHEREAS, at the age of ninety-one, Mac Wiseman wrote the number-one bluegrass song "Going Back to Bristol," which was performed by Shawn Camp; and

WHEREAS, previously active in the business element of music, he was an A&R representative for Dot Records; a founding board member of the Country Music Association, serving as the organization's first secretary in 1958; and an officer of the Nashville chapter of the American Federation of Musicians; he is a lifetime member of the Reunion of Professional Entertainers, Inc., serving as chairman of the board; and

WHEREAS, it certainly comes as no surprise that Mac Wiseman has received many awards and accolades during the course of his long and storied career, including induction into the Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame in 1984, the IBMA Hall of Honors in 1993, and in 2014 the Country Music Hall of Fame, the highest honor in the country music industry; and

WHEREAS, perhaps the greatest singer in the history of bluegrass, Mac Wiseman stands alone as an icon in the world of traditional music, and he should be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Mac Wiseman, The Voice with a Heart, on his long and illustrious career in the field of bluegrass music and extend to him our wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.